



Colorado Agricultural Statistics Service
PO Box 150969
Lakewood, Colorado 80215
(303) 236-2300 1-800-392-3202

COUNTY ESTIMATES

Sorghum for Grain – 2003 Crop

Released: March 5, 2004

Colorado sorghum production in 2003 made a significant improvement from the severe drought reduced crop the previous year, but overall production was still well below the normal size of crop expected. Colorado producers harvested 4,320,000 bushels of sorghum in 2003, nearly two and one-half times more than the 1,800,000 bushels produced the previous year which was the smallest crop since 1952. With anticipated water shortages and nearly depleted soil moisture, conditions for seeding the 2003 crop were marginal. As a result, producers planted only 270,000 acres for the 2003 crop compared with 350,000 acres planted a year earlier. However, they harvested 160,000 acres, up from just 90,000 acres harvested in 2002. In addition, the latest crop averaged 27.0 bushels per acre compared with 20.0 bushels per acre from the 2002 crop.

Baca County continued to be the largest sorghum producing area in Colorado and the 1,787,000 bushel crop produced in 2003 was nearly double the 965,000 bushels harvested in 2002. The latest crop accounted for 41 percent of the state's total production of 4,320,000 bushels. Baca County's 2002 crop represented 54 percent of the state's total crop of 1,800,000 bushels. The 67,000 acres harvested in 2003 reflected a 25 percent increase from the 53,800 acres harvested for grain the previous year. In addition, the average yield of 26.5 bushels per acre for the 2003 crop was 8.50 bushels per acre above the 18.0 bushel average realized from the 2002 crop.

Kiowa County moved up to a distant second place ranking in grain sorghum production by producing 574,000 bushels in 2003. The latest crop was four times larger than the 143,000 bushel crop produced in 2002. Producers harvested 30,200 acres for grain in 2003 compared with just 9,000 acres harvested the previous year. In addition, the average yield of 19.0 bushels per acre for the 2003 crop was 3.0 bushels above the 2002 crop average of 16.0 bushels.

Prowers County moved down to a third place ranking in 2003 with a total crop of 440,000 bushels of grain sorghum. The 2003 crop was 8 percent larger than the 2002 crop of 406,000 bushels. Producers harvested 12,300 acres of grain sorghum in 2003 compared with 10,700 acres harvested the previous year. However, the average yield of 36.0 bushels per acre was 2.0 bushels below the 2002 crop average of 38.0 bushels per acre.

Weld County moved up to a fourth place ranking of the state's sorghum grain producing counties with a total output of 212,000 bushels of grain sorghum in 2003, up significantly from the 16,500 bushel crop produced in 2002. Producers harvested 4,900 acres in 2003 compared with 2,100 acres the previous year. In addition, much of the 2003 crop was irrigated which pushed the average yield to 43.5 bushels per acre compared with an entirely dryland yield of just 8.0 bushels per acre from the 2002 crop.

Cheyenne County produced 151,000 bushels of grain sorghum in 2003, enough to rank as the fifth largest grain sorghum producing area of the state. Producers harvested 7,000 acres of grain sorghum and obtained an average yield of 21.5 bushels per acre from the 2003 crop. That compares with 2,000 acres harvested and an average yield of 10.0 bushels per acre for the previous year's crop.

The **top five producing counties** produced 73 percent of the state's total grain sorghum crop of 4,320,000 bushels in 2003 compared with 91 percent of the total output of 1,800,000 bushels for the 2002 crop. The production for each of the next five producing counties was as follows: **Lincoln County**, 120,000 bushels; **Morgan County**, 107,000 bushels; **Arapahoe County**, 97,000 bushels; **Otero County**, 95,000 bushels; and **Logan County**, 91,000 bushels. The combined output from these counties totaled 510,000 bushels, bringing the total production from the **top ten counties** to 3,674,000 bushels representing 85 percent of the state's total output. There were only 13 other counties which produced grain sorghum in 2003 which accounted for the remaining 15 percent of the total production.

Lance Fretwell - Kiflam Hurlbut
Agricultural Statisticians

R. René Picanso
State Statistician

Sorghum for Grain: Acreage and production by county and district, Colorado, 2003

County and District	Acreage planted <u>1/</u>	Irrigated			Non-Irrigated			Total		
		Acreage har- vested	Yield per acre	Pro- duc- tion	Acreage har- vested	Yield per acre	Pro- duc- tion	Acreage har- vested	Yield per acre	Pro- duc- tion
	Acres	Acres	Bu.	Bu.	Acres	Bu.	Bu.	Acres	Bu.	Bu.
Chaffee . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Clear Creek .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Eagle . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Gilpin . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Grand . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Gunnison . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Jackson . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Lake . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Moffat . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Park . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pitkin . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Rio Blanco .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Routt . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Summit . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Teller . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
NW & Mountain	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Boulder . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Jefferson . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Larimer	1,400	500	64.0	32,000	900	20.0	18,000	1,400	35.5	50,000
Logan	3,500	500	52.0	26,000	2,000	32.5	65,000	2,500	36.5	91,000
Morgan	4,300	1,600	54.5	87,000	900	22.0	20,000	2,500	43.0	107,000
Sedgwick . .	1,500	300	50.0	15,000	1,100	27.5	30,000	1,400	32.0	45,000
Weld	7,000	3,100	55.0	170,000	1,800	23.5	42,000	4,900	43.5	212,000
Northeast	17,700	6,000	55.0	330,000	6,700	26.0	175,000	12,700	40.0	505,000
Adams	5,800	...	...	...	5,300	14.5	76,000	5,300	14.5	76,000
Arapahoe . . .	8,000	300	56.5	17,000	4,700	17.0	80,000	5,000	19.5	97,000
Cheyenne . .	20,500	400	77.5	31,000	6,600	18.0	120,000	7,000	21.5	151,000
Denver . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Douglas . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Elbert	1,400	...	...	...	800	17.5	14,000	800	17.5	14,000
El Paso	2,500	500	58.0	29,000	1,200	19.0	23,000	1,700	30.5	52,000
Kiowa	62,400	200	70.0	14,000	30,000	18.5	560,000	30,200	19.0	574,000
Kit Carson . .	5,600	1,000	64.0	64,000	1,300	15.5	20,000	2,300	36.5	84,000
Lincoln	15,900	500	56.0	28,000	5,200	17.5	92,000	5,700	21.0	120,000
Phillips	2,000	...	...	...	1,600	22.0	35,000	1,600	22.0	35,000
Washington .	1,400	400	57.5	23,000	800	20.0	16,000	1,200	32.5	39,000
Yuma	1,200	300	63.5	19,000	800	17.5	14,000	1,100	30.0	33,000
East Central	126,700	3,600	62.5	225,000	58,300	18.0	1,050,000	61,900	20.5	1,275,000
Archuleta . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Delta . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Dolores . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Garfield . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Hinsdale . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
La Plata . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Mesa . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Montezuma .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Montrose . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ouray . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
San Juan . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
San Miguel .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Southwest	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Alamosa . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Conejos . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Costilla . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Mineral . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Rio Grande .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Saguache . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
San Luis Valley	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Baca	92,000	12,000	61.5	740,000	55,000	19.0	1,047,000	67,000	26.5	1,787,000
Bent	2,700	600	75.0	45,000	...	...	...	600	75.0	45,000
Crowley . . .	3,900	800	65.0	52,000	1,600	18.0	29,000	2,400	34.0	81,000
Custer . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Fremont . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Huerfano . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Las Animas .	1,000	200	65.0	13,000	700	37.0	26,000	900	43.5	39,000
Otero	1,700	1,000	95.0	95,000	...	...	...	1,000	95.0	95,000
Prowers	21,000	4,200	71.5	300,000	8,100	17.5	140,000	12,300	36.0	440,000
Pueblo	3,300	600	66.5	40,000	600	21.5	13,000	1,200	44.0	53,000
Southeast	125,600	19,400	66.0	1,285,000	66,000	19.0	1,255,000	85,400	29.5	2,540,000
State Total	270,000	29,000	63.5	1,840,000	131,000	19.0	2,480,000	160,000	27.0	4,320,000

1/ Planted for all purposes.